

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-05 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03  
HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 /078 W  
-----116460 211616Z /45

P R 211545Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1487  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR FAA; AMCONSUL FRANKFURT FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, CPRS, AO, US  
SUBJECT: US REGISTERED AIRCRAFT ALLEGEDLY FORCED DOWN  
IN ANGOLA

REF: USDAO LONDON 151611Z DEC. 77

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY RECEIVED REPORT DEC. 15 THAT US  
REGISTERED AIRCRAFT IN TRANSIT SOUTH AFRICA TO DALLAS,  
TEXAS, VIA LONDON WAS FORCED BY ANGOLAN MIG AIRCRAFT TO  
LAND AT LUANDA. PRESENT SITUATION OF PILOT,  
PATRICK HEWARTSON, SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN, UNKNOWN.  
AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY BELONGS TO BERT LISLE, LISLE AIR-  
CRAFT, INC., LOVE FIELD, DALLAS, TEXAS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY DAO OFFICE CALLED DEC. 15 BY CHARLES YERKES,  
AIRLINE PILOT WITH ALASKA INTERNATIONAL AIR, A FIRM WITH  
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OFFICES IN LONDON. YERKES HAD JUST RETURNED FROM  
LUANDA AND REPORTED THAT A PILOT COLLEAGUE WORKING IN  
ANGOLA, HARRY KIRK, HAD SEEN TWO ANGOLAN MIGS FORCE  
DOWN AERO-COMMANDER 690, US REGISTRY NO. N9101N, WHICH  
WAS ON ITS WAY FROM BOTSWANA TO LIBREVILLE. KIRK  
REPORTEDLY SAW THE LANDING AND REPORTED THAT THE NAME  
"MASSEY-FERGUSON" WAS PAINTED ON THE SIDE OF THE PLANE.

YERKES SAID THAT WHEN HE FLEW OUT OF LUANDA ON DEC. 14  
HE SAW THE PLANE WITH GUARDS AROUND IT.

3. DAO CHECKED WITH MASSEY-FERGUSON IN LONDON, WHO  
IDENTIFIED PLANE AS ONE THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN SUBSIDIARY  
HAD SOLD ABOUT 2 MONTHS AGO TO PLACO, LTD., PIPER AIR-  
CRAFT AGENT IN JOHANNESBURG. SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS THROUGH  
MASSEY-FERGUSON LED OPERATOR OF UK FIRM WHICH WAS FERRY-  
ING THE PLANE TO CONTACT DAO. BRIAN KAY OF AMBRION  
AVIATION, LEASDEN AIRPORT (TEL: 09273 79588) STATED THAT  
PLANE, A ROCKWELL AEROCOMMANDER 681, WAS TAKEN BY  
MASSEY-FERGUSON TO SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE US IN 1975 WHEN  
IT WAS TAKEN OFF THE US REGISTER AND PLACED ON  
SOUTH AFRICAN REGISTER. FIRM SOLD IT TO PLACO WHO IN  
TURN SOLD IT TO AIR MORE INTERNATIONAL, ELSTREE AIRPORT,  
ENGLAND (TELEX 8812310). KAY PURCHASED AIRCRAFT FROM  
AIR MORE FOR HIS FRIEND DR. BERT LISLE, LISLE AIRCRAFT,  
INC., LOVE FIELD, DALLAS, TEXAS (TEL: 214-387-0731),  
BUSINESS; 661-0789, HOME), WHO PUT IT ON US REGISTER.  
KAY INDICATED REGISTRY NUMBER WAS N9110N, WHEREAS YERKES  
SAID NUMBER HE SAW ON THE PLANE AT LUANDA AIRPORT WAS  
N9101N.

4. EMBASSY CHECKED FERRY LICENSE WITH FAA FRANKFURT.  
PERMIT ISSUED TO AIR MORE INTERNATIONAL FOR FERRY OF  
N9110N FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO DALLAS VIA LONDON TO LEAVE  
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ON OR ABOUT DEC. 5. PERMIT ISSUED DEC. 2 TO EXPIRE JAN.  
5. CURIOUSLY, FAA REGISTRY OF AIRCRAFT OF JULY 1977 SHOWS  
AIRCRAFT N9101N TO BE AN AERO COMMANDER 681 OWNED BY

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AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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YUKON AIR SERVICE, P.O.B. 60054, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA.

5. PILOT OF AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY FORCED DOWN IN LUANDA WAS PATRICK HEWARTSON, A SOUTH AFRICAN WHOSE WIFE IS A BRITISH SUBJECT, WHO HAD BEEN HIRED BY BRIAN KAY TO FERRY THE AIRCRAFT. KAY STATES HEWARTSON HAD FERRIED AIRCRAFT OVER THE SAME ROUTE FOUR TIMES IN THE LAST YEAR, KEEPING WELL OUT TO SEA OFF ANGOLA IN EACH INSTANCE. KAY DOUBTS THAT HEWARTSON WOULD HAVE ENTERED ANGOLAN AIR SPACE INADVERTENTLY AND BELIEVES ANGOLAN MIGS PROBABLY FORCED HEWARTSON TO ENTER ANGOLAN AIR SPACE. IN CONVERSATION WITH KAY LATE DEC. 20, HE STATED THAT HE HAD INFORMED LISLE OF AIRCRAFT'S SEIZURE AND HAD ALSO FOUND ON HIS RETURN TO HIS OFFICE THAT HIS SECRETARY HAD RECEIVED AN OVERSEAS TELEPHONE CALL FROM SOMEONE IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS THE ANGOLAN MINISTRY OF AFFAIRS AND STATING THAT ANGOLA WOULD RELEASE THE AIRCRAFT AND  
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"MAYBE" THE PILOT UPON PAYMENT OF \$10,000. KAY WAS ABOUT TO TELEPHONE LISLE AGAIN AND INTENDED TO ADVISE LISLE TO PAY THE \$10,000. KAY ALSO SAID THAT LISLE INTENDED TO CONTACT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

6. EMBASSY IN CONTACT WITH VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING BROTHER-IN-LAW OF PILOT, IF DEPARTMENT WISHES ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US REGISTERED AIRCRAFT ALLEGEDLY FORCED DOWN IN ANGOLA  
**TAGS:** EAIR, CPRS, AO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/682d16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009